



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Release UPON RECEIPT

1940 COLD STORAGE HOLDINGS OF FISHERY PRODUCTS BREAK RECORDS

Production of frozen fish and shellfish in the United States during 1940 amounted to 196,155,000 pounds--the highest figure on record since the compilation of these data was begun in 1920. Compared with freezings recorded in 1920 of 92,260,000 pounds, the figure for 1940 represents an increase of 113 percent.

Compared with production for 1939, the 1940 figure represents an increase of 12,747,000 pounds, or 7 percent, for 1940, according to summaries released today in Statistical Bulletin No. 1412 by the Division of Fishery Industries, United States Department of the Interior. This information is based on statistics furnished by the Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture.

Spread among 36 classifications, the quantity of frozen fish during 1940 amounted to 171,516,000 pounds, while the total shellfish frozen amounted to 24,639,000 pounds, spread among five classifications.

The freezing of fish was heaviest from June to December, inclusive, with the highest total of 23,284,000 pounds, being reported for the month ending July 15, 1940.

Peak period for the freezing of shellfish--3,935,000 pounds--was recorded for the month ending November 15, 1940.

Whiting led all other individual varieties with a total of 21.6 million pounds. In second place appeared rosefish fillets (19.2 million pounds); closely followed by halibut (all trade sizes) with 18.3 million pounds; and haddock fillets (16.7 million pounds).

Production by geographical sections gives the New England States the lead with 87,370,000 pounds. The Pacific area rates second place with 48,044,000 pounds; followed by the Middle Atlantic region (New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania) with 22,163,000 pounds; the North Central East territory (Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, and Wisconsin) with 15,744,000 pounds; and the South Central area (Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas, Oklahoma, and Arkansas) with 12,937,000 pounds.

The average of all fishery products held in cold storage on the fifteenth of each month amounted to 68,111,000 pounds; the maximum holdings recorded being on December 15. On that date there were 100,088,000 pounds of fish and shellfish in domestic freezers---the highest figure ever reported for an individual month.

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